

Message Text

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42

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-02 XMB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /097 W

----- 063795

P 171605Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5392

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY

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MBABANE PASS OSARAC

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

STATE PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, BC

SUBJ: BOTZAM ROAD

REF: A) GABORONE 0597, B) GABORONE 0629

1. SUMMARY: GOB HAS DECIDED IMPERATIVE BEGIN UPGRADING BOTZAM IMMEDIATELY DUE GREATER THAN ANTICIPATED HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC LIKELY TO BE DIVERTED TO BOTZAM ROAD FOLLOWING COMPLETION. GOVERNMENT PREPARED FUND ENTIRE COST FROM OWN RESOURCES, BUT WILL URGENTLY SEEK FOREIGN DONOR ASSISTANCE TO AVOID SACRIFICING OTHER HIGH PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. MINFIN INTENDS INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GROVE ASAP AND REQUESTS PRESENCE AND ASSISTANCE REDSO STAFF. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER TODAY FROM MINFIN EXPLAINING REASONS BEHIND GOB CABINET DECISION TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH UPGRADING BOTZAM ROAD TO BITUMEN STANDARD. LETTER ALSO SETS FORTH STEPS GOB INTENDS TAKE AND REQUESTS
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REDSO OFFICIALS VISIT GABORONE FOR BRIEFING AND TO ADVISE

GOB WHERE NECESSARY. SUMMARY OF LETTER, WHICH BEING
POUCHED REDSO, AID/W AND AF/S, AS FOLLOWS:

A) GOB CABINET CONCLUDED IN MAY 16 MEETING IT IMPERATIVE
PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH UPGRADING BOTZAM ROAD. FOLLOWING
REASONS CITED:

1) GRAVEL ROAD UNABLE WITHSTAND TRAFFIC IN EXCESS 50 HEAVY
TRUCKS PER DAY.

2) GOVERNMENT BELIEVES BUILDUP TRANSIT TRAFFIC THROUGH
KAZUNFGULA (SEE PARA 3 REFTTEL A) WILL DIVERT TO BOTZAM FOLLOWING
COMPLETION AND THAT INCREASED HEAVY TRAFFIC WILL RENDER ROAD
MAINTENANCE UNTENABLE.

3) GOB BELIEVES ORIGINAL ASSESSMENT OF STRATEGIC
IMPLICATIONS OF OIL EMBARGO STILL VALID.

B) GOB HAS THEREFORE PLEDGED OWN RESOURCES AS BRIDGING
FINANCE PENDING NEGOTIATION EXTERNAL FUNDS. SUFFICIENT FUNDS
EXIST TO MEET "FORESEEABLE COMMITMENTS". HOWEVER, GOB
WILL MOVE QUICKLY IN EFFORT OBTAIN OUTSIDE FUNDING. IF
UNSUCCESSFUL, BOTSWANA PREPARED SACRIFICE FUNDS FROM OTHER
HIGHEST PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDING ACCELERATED
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INCLUDING ACCELERATED
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (ARDP). GOB HOPES OBTAIN
\$1 MILLION FROM UN CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND AND WILL APPROACH
ARABS AGAIN ON PRIORITY BASIS. LETTER ALSO STATES. "IF
POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLEMENTARY AID FUNDS STILL EXISTS, WE
WOULD REQUEST THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN."

C) TAMS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED ARRANGE FINAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH
GROVE. IT IS PROPOSED TO TAR NATA-KAZUNGULA SECTION TO STANDARDS
DESCRIBED IN "BLUE COVERED DOCUMENT" (POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC
IMPLICATIONS OF OIL EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, NNAMIBIA,
ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE AND BOTSWANA'S EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION
PLANS) SUBMITTED TO AID IN FEBRUARY. NGOMA BY-PASS AND
PANDAMATENGA SPUR WILL BE LEFT AS GRAVEL ROADS ACCORDING
ORIGINAL SPECIFICATIONS. IT HOPED NEGOTIATIONS WITH GROVE CAN
BEGIN IN ONE TO TWO WEEKS, PREFERABLY IN BOTSWANA.

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D) GOB REQUESTS REDSO STAFF (FEDEL AND GUEDET) VISIT BOTSWANA
FOR BRIEFING AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE SINCE MODIFICATION
DESIGN AND AMENDMENT OF CONTRACT WILL BE ESSENTIAL.

3. COMMENT: MINFIN PERMSEC HERMANS ADVISED CHARGE CABINET
DECIDED WILL MAKE R8 MILLION AVAILABLE FROM FY 73/74
AND FY 74/75 RECURRENT BUDGET (SURPLUSES) IF NECESSARY TO
COMPLETE ROAD. HE COMMENTED DIVERSION COULD MEAN END VITAL

ARDP, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING. HERMANS WILL BE IN WASHINGTON
WEEK OF MAY 27 IN CONNECTION WORLD BANK MEETINGS AND INTENDS
CONTACT AID/W TO PROVIDE BRIEFING. MINFIN ANTICIPATES
DISCUSSION WITH GROVE WILL BEGIN WEEK OF MAY 27 AND HOPES
REDSO REPS COULD ARRIVE SAME TIME. EMBASSY WILL CONFIRM
FINAL DATES.
BISHOP

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Message Attributes

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